

HP Docket No. 10019417-1

REMARKS

Applicants appreciate the Office's review of the present application. In response to the Office Action, the cited references have been reviewed, and the rejections and objections made to the claims by the Examiner have been considered.

In order to place the application in condition for allowance, or alternately in better condition for appeal, claims 11-25 and 37 have been cancelled without prejudice. Applicants believe that the amendment to the abovementioned claims does not require a further substantive examination and does not present new matter, and therefore request entry of this amendment. Reconsideration of the application in light of the above amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

This Amendment is submitted in order to further prosecution and permit the issuance of a patent on the allowable subject matter, and should not be construed as acquiescence by Applicants in the outstanding rejection. Applicants reserve the right to pursue the content of any cancelled claims in a continuing application.

Rejections**Rejection Under 35 USC §103**

Claims 11-25 and 37 have been rejected under 35 USC §103(a), as being unpatentable over U.S. patent 7,113,306 to Nakabayashi et al. in view of U.S. patent 6,335,742 to Takemoto. In response, claims 11-25 and 37 have been cancelled without prejudice in view of this rejection.

In view of the foregoing, it is submitted that the rejections under 35 USC §103(a) have been mooted and should be withdrawn.

Formalities

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Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants acknowledge, with appreciation, the allowance of claims 1-9, 27-36, 38, and 41.

Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance

Applicants agree with the Office's conclusion regarding patentability, without necessarily agreeing with or acquiescing in the reason(s) set forth in the Office Action. In particular, Applicants wish to emphasize that the patentability of claims stems from the respective combinations of elements defined by the claims, each viewed as a whole, rather than the presence of any particular element(s) in the combinations. Applicants submit that the indicated claims are allowable because the prior art fails to anticipate, teach, suggest, or render obvious the invention as claimed, independent of how the invention is paraphrased. Applicants thus rely on the claims, as drafted, rather than any characterization in the Office Action.

Conclusion

Attorney for Applicants has reviewed each one of the cited references made of record and not relied upon, and believes that the claims presently on file in the subject application patentably distinguish thereover, either taken alone or in combination with one another.

Therefore, all claims presently on file in the subject application are in condition for immediate allowance, and such action is respectfully requested. If it is felt for any reason that direct communication with Applicant's attorney would serve to advance prosecution of this case to finality, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned Robert C. Sismilich, Esq. at the below-listed telephone number.

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**AUTHORIZATION TO PAY AND PETITION
FOR THE ACCEPTANCE OF ANY NECESSARY FEES**

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Respectfully submitted,



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Date: 10/3/08

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